

Britz 2000-0097CON

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 21. *cancelled*

22. *(previously presented)* A communication system comprising:

a plurality of nodes, each node including an optical switch to controllably route signals from a plurality of in-ports of the optical switch into a plurality of out-ports of the optical switch;

a plurality of point-to-point links between each node and another of the plurality of nodes that interconnect the plurality of nodes into a network, each point-to-point link including a free space optical channel, a first free space optical channel coupling to a first node through a receive path and through a transmit path, the receive path coupling to a respective in-port of the optical switch of the first node, the transmit path coupling to a respective out-port of the optical switch of the first node; and

at least one communication hub comprising:

a plurality of neighborhood links to corresponding users, where each link carries an optical signal having a wavelength assigned to a corresponding user;

an optical switch coupled to the plurality of neighborhood links to route the optical signals to the corresponding users; and

a trunk coupled between the optical switch in the communication hub and a free space optical channel link to at least one node of the network.

23. *(previously presented)* The communication system of claim 22, further comprising:

an optical fiber link between the communication hub and at least one node of the network; and

a switch to selectably couple the trunk between the optical switch of the communication hub and one of the optical fiber link and the free space optical channel link to at least one node of the network.

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24. *(previously presented)* The communication system of claim 22, further comprising:

a wireless network control system coupled to the optical switch of the communication hub.

25. *(previously presented)* The communication system of claim 22, further comprising:

a radio channel link that complements the free space optical channel link between the communication hub and the free space optical channel link to at least one node of the network.